

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 1986 AT 7:30 P.M.
IN ROOM H-769, HALL BUILDING, SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairperson Georges Berberi called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

PRESENT:

Co-Presidents:

Ron Hiscox (7:52)
Mike Judson (7:55)

Commerce:

Tony Ghannamy
Shirleen Weekes

Engineering:

Dan Artola
Jonathan Jolivet (8:20)
Martin Pereira

Arts and Science:

Maria Calderone (8:20)
Adrian Chomenko
Milva D'Aronco
Maki Kusano
Lorne Lecker
Chris Mostovac
Jim Schneider
Karen Takacs

Fine Arts:

David Etherington
Ian Fleet

ABSENT:

Arts and Science: Andy King, Mark Pink, Heather Rerrie, Jennifer Stark
Commerce: Elizabeth Laett, Jenny Rice
Engineering: Andrew Haberl
Fine Arts: Ian Chuprun, Page Lopez

Advisors to the Board Present: Frank Benson, Chairperson, Judicial Board;
Glen Cheverie, Liaison Committee; Francois Desrosiers, External V.P.; Jim
Locke, Liaison Committee; Brian Weihs, Finance V.P.; Peter Wheeland,
Communications V.P.; Scott White, Services V.P.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Chairperson Georges Berberi advised the Board that the meeting would have to end at 10:30 p.m. because of the scheduled electrical shutdown.

The Minutes of the 43rd and 44th Meetings of the Board of Directors were distributed. Chairperson Georges Berberi proposed adding the approval of these minutes to this evening's agenda. The approval was deferred, however, until the next meeting of the Board in order to give the Directors an opportunity to read the Minutes. Scott White announced that on Page 11 of the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting, in the V.P. Services report, the figure for the TravelCUTS contract should read \$6,200 not \$62,000.

Chairperson Georges Berberi announced that the ratification of the "Concordia Undergraduate Industrial Relations Association" would be moved by the Liaison Committee during Item 5 - New Business (c).

The Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Chairperson's Remarks:

Chairperson Georges Berberi asked the Board to set the date for the next meeting. It was decided that it would be held on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Room AD-131 at Loyola.

Chairperson Georges Berberi noted that Kim Segal had resigned from her position as Judicial Board Chairperson, and asked Frank Benson, Judicial Board Chairperson to comment. Frank Benson explained that Kim Segal had felt the natural tension that had arisen between her schoolwork, her involvement with CUSA, and her outside commitments; and felt that she was not as effective in her role as Chairperson as she had wished to be, and as such had resigned.

(8:00)

4. Unfinished Business:

a) Setting Number of Seats for the Board:

At the informal meeting of the Board on February 13, 1986 Paul Gott, Chief Returning Officer, recommended leaving the number of seats the way they are now: 2 Co-Presidents, 13 Arts and Science, 7 Commerce, 4 Engineering and 4 Fine Arts (Total 30 Seats). He explained that if these seats were divided based on percentage of students, Arts and Science would have 16 seats. However, the Constitution states that not more than one-half of the seats can be assigned to any one faculty, so Arts and Science has the maximum of 13 seats (in case the co-presidents are from the Arts and Science faculty).

MOTION 281:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CUSA Board of Directors 1986-87 will be comprised of 30 seats divided as follows: two Co-Presidents, thirteen Arts and Science Directors, seven Commerce Directors, four Engineering and Computer Science Directors, and four Fine Arts Directors.

Moved by: Maki Kusano
Seconded by: Milva D'Aronco

VOTE ON MOTION 281:

12/0/3 Carried

b) Referendum Questions:

Peter Wheeland explained that there were six questions being presented to the Board to decide whether they would appear as referenda during the CUSA general elections. He stated that these questions are the ones that were discussed during the informal meeting of the Board on February 13th, however, the wording had been changed slightly for clarification in some instances and for the questions to be consistent in terms of format. It is

the finalized version of each of these questions that is being discussed tonight. The questions involve the following topics: CUSA membership amendment, ANEQ membership, newspaper autonomy, CUSA fee amendment, CUSA executive appointments, Capital Campaign contributions.

(8:15)

MOTION 282:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18 and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree to the following amendment to CUSA's by-laws?

That the current Article 3:

'Every undergraduate, independent or special student registered at Concordia University and having paid the Association fee as per by-law eight (8) shall be a member of the association for a period of one-year from the date of the last fee payment or until such time as said student in no longer registered at Concordia university, whichever occurs first. A student shall be deemed to be registered during the summer session following the winter session during which said student was registered.'

be renumbered Article 3.1; and that a NEW article (3.2) be added which shall read:

3.2 'notwithstanding by-laws 3.1 and 8.1, the Board of Directors may grant membership status to registered undergraduate, independent and special students who have not paid the Association fee. Two-thirds (2/3) of Directors present at a duly convened meeting must approve the granting of such membership status.'

YES, I agree

NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

Discussion:

Karen Takacs asked whether membership status could be revoked at easily as it could be granted. Peter Wheeland explained that the Board would have to establish a policy regarding how membership status is granted or revoked, but that this policy would not have to be part of the Constitution.

VOTE ON MOTION 282:

15/0/2 Carried

MOTION 283:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18 and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree with the following?

Whereas Concordia students have been members of the Association Nationale des Etudiants-es du Quebec (ANEQ) for the past three years; and

Whereas, in those three years, ANEQ has regularly ignored the legitimate concerns and criticisms of Concordia student representatives regarding the democracy, financial stability and effectiveness of ANEQ; and

Whereas Concordia student representatives have proposed a series of reforms to ANEQ, to be debated this April;

I agree to give the CUSA Board of Directors the mandate to withdraw from ANEQ membership if, in the opinion of the Directors, ANEQ has not made significant steps towards improving its structures, finances and effectiveness by September 1986. Any such decision to withdraw from ANEQ membership must be ratified by a referendum to be held no later than March, 1987.

YES, I agree
NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

VOTE ON MOTION 283:

14/0/3 Carried

MOTION 284:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18 and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree with the following:

Whereas a free responsible student press, financially and editorially independent of student government, is an important service to Concordia students and is essential in a free and democratic society; and

Whereas the Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA) is in the conflicting role of being both publisher of The Link and the Concordian and being a major object of news coverage;

The student newspapers, The Link and the Concordian, should gain editorial and financial autonomy through being funded directly by students in the following manner:

Should this referendum be passed, the CUSA fee of \$1.80 per credit will be split into three parts: \$1.60 for CUSA, \$0.13 for The Link and \$0.07 for the Concordian.

YES, I agree

NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

(8:30)

Discussion:

Dan Artola asked if this movement towards newspaper autonomy was being put forward so that CUSA would no longer have to pay the legal costs incurred by the papers. Ron Hiscox responded that this was only a small part of the reason, explaining that by precedence CUSA cannot interfere editorially with the papers although legally it could. Max Wallace of The Link interjected that according to The Link's constitution, the paper has complete editorial autonomy. Peter Wheeland stated that CUSA's power to cut budgets, to censor, etc. was theoretical and that politically speaking, CUSA could not get away with it. He further stated that with autonomy, students will have an influence over the policy of the papers. Martin Pereira asked if the papers will be able to raise their fees in case they need the money to pay legal costs. Peter Wheeland explained that it would be unconnected to CUSA and they would have to do it through their own referendum. Jim Schneider commented on the amounts of \$.07 and \$.13 being published on the referendum ballot and felt that the students might think that CUSA is playing favourites. He further stated that The Link should not have to publish twice a week. Gordon Ritchie of The Concordian commented that he would be willing to accept the \$.13 instead of \$.07 for the sake of CUSA's objectivity. Frank Benson wondered how the amount of the fees to be collected could be dictated once the papers have their autonomy. Milva D'Aronco responded that the amount has to be stipulated in order for the money to be split once it has been collected. She added that if the fees were not determined at this time, another referendum would be needed to set the fees.

(8:45)

Dan Artola commented on student apathy and was of the opinion that the student-at-large would not be concerned with what happens with the papers. Peter Wheeland stated that those who were not satisfied with the way the papers were being run would be interested and, as such, he felt that student apathy would not be an issue. Peter Wheeland also stated that if the referendum passes, part of the autonomy negotiations next year would be focused on setting up a publications board, and he commented on the need to ensure adequate student-at-large representation on such a board. Milva D'Aronco asked whether the Co-Presidents had thought about the ramifications if this referendum is passed. Ron Hiscox responded that the papers themselves will have to make their own constitutions and go through negotiations with CUSA for a service contract. Milva D'Aronco asked about representatives for the publications board that Peter Wheeland had mentioned earlier. Mike Judson explained that the publications board has not been set yet and that it will be negotiated after the referendum.

AMENDMENT:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following sentence be added to the final paragraph of Motion 284:

"Should this referendum fail, the CUSA fee will remain at \$1.80."

Moved by: Karen Takacs
Seconded by: Michael Judson

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT 13/2/1 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 284 AS AMENDED 14/1/1 Carried

MOTION 285:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18 and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree that the current Article 8.2 of the CUSA By-laws should be amended to read:

'The Association fee shall be set by referendum. Notwithstanding By-law 17.6, the Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to propose the amount of the fee.'

This will replace the current Article 8.2 which reads:

'The Board of Directors shall set the amount to be paid by the members of the Association. Two-thirds of the Directors present at a duly convened meeting must approve such amount.'

YES, I agree
NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

Discussion:

Peter Wheeland stated that the wording of this question had been approved by CUSA's lawyer and was consistent with the constitution. Frank Benson explained that this referendum question would take power away from the Board and that the theory behind it is to present CUSA as a student service-oriented body. He further explained that the wording has been well thought out and that the Board will propose any increases. If a referendum to increase the rate fails, the rate will remain as it was. If this referendum question passes, Frank Benson expressed his opinion that the Board will be held more accountable.

(9:00)

Dan Artola argued that the Board is elected to represent the students and if the Board feels an increase is necessary, the Board should be allowed to raise the fee. He further stated that there would be only a small minority who would agree to increases in the fee. Karen Takacs expressed the view that this is the only time that students have an opportunity to learn about the Association's finances and how CUSA is spending their money, and that it will be up to the Board to justify any increases it wishes to make. Peter Wheeland commented that he had seen increases when the Board was not well informed (two years ago) and he felt that the Board might not look at increases as critically as students would, whereas this referendum would make the Board as critical.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Jim Schneider
Seconded by: Chris Mostovac

There were no objections to ending debate.

VOTE ON MOTION 285: 14/0/1 Carried

(9:15)

MOTION 286:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18, and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree that the CUSA By-laws should be amended to read:

'6.2.1. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Executive from the members. The Executive shall be responsible for at least the following areas: The finances of the Association, educational matters, external relations, programming, student services, and part-time student affairs. Members of the Executive shall be given appropriate titles and shall be answerable to the Co-Presidents and the Board of Directors of the Association. The Board of Directors may appoint additional Executive members as it sees fit.'

This will replace the current Article 6.2.1 which reads:

'The Co-Presidents shall appoint an Executive from the members which appointment shall be ratified by the Board of Directors. The Executive shall be responsible for at least the following areas: the finances of the Association, educational matters, external relations, programming, student services, and part-time student affairs. Members of the Executive shall be given appropriate titles and shall be answerable to the Co-Presidents of the Association. The Co-Presidents may appoint additional Executive members as they see fit, subject to ratification of the Board of Directors.'

YES, I agree
NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Ron Hiscox
Seconded by: Michael Judson

Discussion:

Karen Takacs stated that the intention of this referendum question is to make the executives responsible to the Board. Chris Mostovac argued that the Co-Presidents need to have people that they can work with on the executive and they should be allowed to make appointments, and furthermore, the Co-Presidents are elected to govern and, as such, should be responsible for their appointments whereas the Board should act as a watchdog.

MOVE to reject Motion 286.

Moved by: Chris Mostovac
Seconded by: Milva D'Aronco

Peter Wheeland stated that at present the Co-Presidents can appoint their executives and the Board can accept or object to these appointments, and this can result in the executives acting as a team against the Board. He continued his remarks by stating that this referendum question would make the executives responsible to the Board. Karen Takacs stated that this referendum question would not change the way people are brought forward to the Board, and she stated that when the executives are responsible only to the Co-Presidents, then there is a very real chance of the Board being reduced to merely a rubber-stamping body. Jon Jolivet supported Chris Mostovac in stating that the Co-Presidents need Vice-Presidents that they can work with, however, he felt the Board had a safeguard in that the Board could refuse to appoint an executive if the Co-Presidents said that they were unable to work together. Chris Mostovac expressed the view that under the present constitution there are two levels of decision-making: at the executive level and at the Board level, and that it would be utopic to think they could work together. Chris Mostovac continued to express his view, stating that this referendum question is hypocritical--either let the students vote for the vice-presidents or let the co-presidents govern.

(9:30)

Frank Benson stated that the democratic process would be stifled if the Board would not ratify the Co-Presidents' appointments; however, providing that there is competition for the positions, the Board should have a say in who becomes appointed. Milva D'Aronco stressed the need to have executives that can work together otherwise the student population as a whole would suffer, and she added that the Co-Presidents would bring forward people with whom they felt they would be able to work well. Scott White informed the Board that in his co-presidential campaign platform, he and Karen Takacs will be pushing for more co-ordination and better leadership within CUSA, adding that they would hope to achieve a balance between a potentially autocratic regime and vice-presidents being popularly elected. Maria Calderone voiced her disagreement with having the Co-Presidents alone making executive appointments, stating that it would be a more democratic process if more people were involved in the selection of executives.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Maria Calderone
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE ON MOTION TO END DEBATE

8/6/0 Defeated

(9:45)

Mike Judson reminded the Board that the Co-Presidents can influence the Board's decisions regarding who should or should not be appointed, as had been suggested earlier. Peter Wheeland commented on the "myth" of people working together and suggested that individuals chosen by the Co-Presidents might not necessarily be a cohesive group--there could be in-fighting and/or back-stabbing among them. There is no guarantee that they would be a team. Peter Wheeland also agreed with the point raised by Jon Jolivet that there was an inherent safeguard in that the Co-Presidents could advise the Board if they felt there would be problems working with an applicant.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Karen Takacs
Seconded by: Jim Schneider

VOTE ON MOTION TO END DEBATE

9/4/1 Defeated

Chris Mostovac withdrew his motion to reject Motion 286.

VOTE ON MOTION 286:

7/7/0 Defeated

Frank Benson asked for a roll call vote. The following voted for Motion 286: Ron Hiscox, Michael Judson, Maria Calderone, Jim Schneider, Karen Takacs, Tony Ghannamy, Martin Pereira. The following voted against Motion 286: Milva D'Aronco, Chris Mostovac, Shirleen Weekes, Dan Artola, Jon Jolivet, David Etherington, Ian Fleet. There were no abstentions. Frank Benson ruled this motion defeated.

(10:00)

MOTION 287:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the following question to be submitted to referendum on March 17, 18 and 19, 1986.

"Do you agree with the following:

All Concordia undergraduate students should contribute a mandatory \$1.00 per credit student fee which shall be used to support the Concordia University Library Capital Campaign; this fee to be in effect for the 1986-87 academic year and shall be renewable by referendum on an annual basis for the next four academic years.

YES, I agree
NO, I do not agree"

Moved by: Michael Judson
Seconded by: Ron Hiscox

Discussion:

Jon Jolivet stated that CUSA took heat last year for the "voluntary" contribution, and added that if this question is submitted to referendum at \$1.00 per credit it will probably not pass.

MOVE to end debate.

Moved by: Chris Mostovac
Seconded by: Shirleen Weekes

There were no objections to ending debate.

VOTE ON MOTION 287: 11/1/2 Carried

5. New Business:

a) Campus Centre Supervisory Committee:

Ron Hiscox requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

b) Hiring and Appointments Committee:

Chairperson Georges Berberi announced that this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

c) Club Ratification:

Glen Cheverie of Liaison Committee introduced Marie Esposito and Marise Noyes of the proposed "Concordia Undergraduate Industrial Relations Association" and stated that this group would come under the Academic/Departmental Association category. The representatives explained that this group needs CUSA support to get it off the ground and to attract students. They further explained that the group would be involved in promoting dialogue on university issues, arranging speakers, co-ordinating job placements, setting up a counselling service and a resource centre, and publishing a newsletter. Tony Ghannamy asked if there was a need for this group. They responded that there was and that they had received a good deal of faculty support for it. Tony Ghannamy asked how many students were pursuing a major in Industrial Relations and was told 38, most of whom are aware of the group.

MOTION 288:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors ratify the formation
of the Concordia Undergraduate Industrial Relations
Association.

Moved by: Chris Mostovac
Seconded by: Tony Ghannamy

VOTE ON MOTION 288:

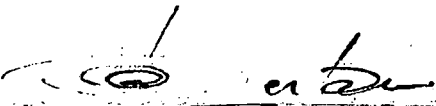
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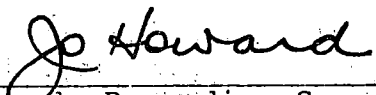
ANNOUNCEMENT:

Frank Benson announced that he wished to rescind his ruling on Motion 286. Because it was a tie vote among the Board members present, he had ruled that the motion had been defeated. However, in fairness to the Board and the modus operandi, and because this referendum question concerns a constitutional change, this should not have been a vote of the Board members present but rather the whole Board. There is a possibility that this motion could pass on the vote of the entire Board. If a total of 18 votes in favour of this motion are received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 1986, then this motion will be carried, and the question submitted to referendum.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.


Georges Berberi, Chairperson


Jo Howard, Recording Secretary